

## **Costa, Allison**

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**From:** Kasper, Roger A - DATCP <Roger.Kasper@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 06, 2014 3:14 PM  
**Subject:** BIOGAS WARNING ARTICLE: Possible lessons from digester manure spill

WI Biogas Development List,

I have not had a chance to see any of the final formal reports & citations for Clear Horizons' manure spills. Not necessary to see all the details, the below summary article of the manure spill events at Clear Horizons covers many of the lessons that the industry might learn from event.

[DNR cites Dane County biodigester in mile-long manure spill; experts hit safety flaws](#)

Madison.com – 3/6/14

The article has a number of quotes from Clear Horizons' chief executive officer Jim Ditter. Jim's comments raise areas of focus that other digester operators and designers might want to evaluate with their existing operations and future projects.

From my days as a safety professional at DOT, it was usually found to be more cost-effective to do it robustly safe in construction phase, even if more expensive. A failure later can be a lot more expensive to manage and loss of public trust. You also want to make sure subcontractors are not substituting things like non-UV protected PVC wiring conduit in place of UV protected PVC for outdoor uses, just to save a little money now. Replacing it later or having a failure can be much more expensive than doing it right from the start. The stray voltage program I work with has experience with non-UV protected PVC insulated wire and conduit falling apart in just a year or two when used in outdoor applications.

Trying not to be preachy. Just hoping those involved in the industry can learn and become more safety robust so we don't have more expensive events in financial terms and environmental damage but also trust of the industry.

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